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# GRADUATE SCHOOL

CONTINUING EDUCATION  
FOR THE FEDERAL  
COMMUNITY

## Newsletter

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

March 13, 1967

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 26 1967

March 24

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Seminar - Changing Human  
Behavior

April 4

Faculty Luncheon

### FOLKLORE AND OUR SOCIETY

"The search for identity--for a continuum with our cultural heritage--may explain much of the interest of young people in folklore today."

So said John R. Dildine, first president of the Folklore Society of Greater



Mr. John R. Dildine, our March Faculty Luncheon speaker, poses with Miss Sarah Knott, founder and program director of the National Folk Festival Association.

Washington, in the course of a discussion of "Folklore and Our Society" at our March faculty luncheon.

Mr. Dildine, who is also a sound recording engineer, writer, and photographer, has conducted a radio program of folk music on WAMU-FM (the American University Educational Radio Station) for the past 10 years. To a roomful of fascinated faculty and staff members, he explained some of the activities currently going on in the field of folklore and folk music.

He defined folk music as being a part of people's lives--not an art form and not truly an entertainment form. However, he noted, the meaning of the term became somewhat fuzzy when it entered the commercial arena. "Now we are even being exposed to something called folk-rock."

Over the past 10 years or so, he said, a number of people have become interested in performing folk music--many of them with an interest dating back to their youth--and out of this, in Washington and other communities, have grown organizations which bring these people together.

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington was formed in 1964, to promote the "study and enjoyment of folk music and folklore of the American people as part of the everyday life in our community." Currently, the group has 180 memberships, some of which are family memberships. It puts on monthly programs during 9 months of the year and takes part in various special events.

The Society will put on its next four programs, featuring folk music and square dancing, at the Department of Agriculture's Jefferson Auditorium, starting in March. The programs remaining in this series are scheduled on April 13, May 11, and June 8 at 8:30 p.m.

The National Folk Festival, Mr. Dildine said, is held yearly and it brings together many people who carry on folk song and dance activities throughout the year. Many ethnic groups are represented. In general, it serves to keep alive an identification with our cultural past and facilitates communications across sub-cultures.

"Folklore," he concluded, "helps people to understand and be stable in their own background--a prerequisite before they can understand other people and their backgrounds. You have to know who and where you are before you can build bridges to where you want to go."

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Mr. Roger Stevens, Chairman of the National Council on the Arts, examines an exhibit poster as George Baka, who teaches Dimensional Design, David Granahan, Chief of Exhibits Service, and John B. Holden, Graduate School Director, look on.

#### ART EXHIBIT

The Graduate School, as most of you know, has an active fine and applied arts program. We are first concerned with the quality of our education and also of our publications. We were pleased recently when Roger Stevens, Chairman of the National Council on the Arts, upon being presented with a copy of our "Design in the Federal Government," commended us on our very fine publication and continuing quality of our art classes.

We are pleased to be co-sponsors, together with the Society of Federal Artists and Designers and the National Council on the Arts, of an exhibit of art in the Federal government.

The exhibit will be on display in the Patio of the USDA Administration Building, from May 1 through May 19. It will be comprised of the most outstanding examples of communication art executed by employees of the Federal government. These will be selected by a distinguished jury from the entries submitted in the annual contest conducted by the Society of Federal Artists and Designers.

Winners in this contest will receive awards in a ceremony to be conducted in the USDA Patio on May 1.

Any work produced or published after January 1, 1965, by Federal employees, is eligible--and we would like to ask you to encourage those with whom you work to submit good entries. There is an entry fee of \$1 or \$2 depending on the type of entry. Further information can be obtained from George Baka, Exhibits Service, USDA, DU8-4337.



Speaking of art, Benjamin Abramowitz has an excellent group of students in his Creative Painting course which meets at Prince Georges Plaza, Hyattsville, Maryland. Southampton University is opening a large exhibition of his paintings, and he will give a lecture in conjunction with this exhibition the second week in May.

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SEMINAR ON "CHANGING HUMAN BEHAVIOR"

Interested persons are invited to take part in what promises to be a unique seminar on "Changing Human Behavior," to be conducted by Dr. J. James McPherson, Head of the Demonstration Center, Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and a member of our Social Sciences faculty.

Dr. McPherson describes the purpose of the seminar as: "To examine what is known about processes of influencing human behavior and to consider ethical aspects of various kinds of activities designed to change human behavior."

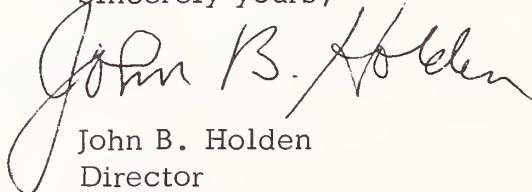
Six sessions are planned. They will be held in the USDA luncheon meeting room 6956, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., running from March through June and beginning March 24. There will be no charge, except for the cost of lunch.

Those who wish to take part must agree to attend at least five of the six sessions, must be willing to help plan one or more of the sessions, and must be willing to do at least a minimum amount of reading in connection with the subject. Participation will be limited to 30.

Some of the subject matter which will probably be considered, Dr. McPherson indicates, would be topics such as; Factors Influencing Learning, Cognitive and Affective Learning, Resistences and Blocks to Learning, Influences on Learning of Varying Human Ecology, Learning Styles and Structure, and Motivation Factors in Learning, Techniques of Producing Involuntary Learning and/or Application of These Learning Theories to Given Learning Objectives.

Anyone interested in taking part in these seminars should get in touch with Dr. McPherson (962-2056; code 13-22056) or Dr. Holden (DU8-6337; code 111-6337).

Sincerely yours,



John B. Holden  
Director